
Obituaries

Former Union minister Raghunath Jha passes away in Delhi

- Former Union minister Raghunath Jha passed away at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi last night.
- Jha was Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise during former prime minister Manmohan Singh's government.
- He was a member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and represented Bihar's Bettiah constituency.

Award-winning sci-fi fantasy author Ursula Le Guin passes away at 88

- Ursula K Le Guin, one of the greatest science-fiction and fantasy authors, died in January, 2018 at the age of 88.
- Her family announced in a tweet that the author died peacefully at her Portland, Oregon home.
- Le Guin's work spanned multiple genres and categories but is best known for her work in the science fiction and fantasy realm.

Ex-Windies umpire Clyde Cumberbatch passes away

- Former West Indies umpire Clyde Cumberbatch has recently passed away in Port of Spain. He was 81.
- Fellow Trinidadian and international umpire, Peter Nero condoled the demise of Cumberbatch, saying that he has lost his umpiring father.

Toyota's former president Tatsuro Toyoda dies at 88

- Toyota's former president Tatsuro Toyoda, who helped the Japanese auto giant establish a foothold in North America, has died at the age of 88, the company said in January, 2018.
- Toyoda, an uncle of current Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda, died of pneumonia on December 30, the firm said in a statement.
- Toyoda joined the company -- founded by his father Kiichiro Toyoda -- in 1953 and in 1984 became the first president of a new firm formed by Toyota and General Motors.

Saksham Yadav, world champion weightlifter, dies

- World champion Saksham Yadav succumbed to his injuries in January, 2018 evening at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in New Delhi.
- Saksham, who won a gold medal in the 2017 world weightlifting championship for India, was seriously injured along with another weightlifter, Rohit, 19, a police official said.

French pop star France Gall passes away at 70

- Singer France Gall, whose hits — including a Eurovision triumph with Serge Gainsbourg — made her an icon of French pop music, has died aged 70. Gall passed away in January, 2018 after a two-year struggle against cancer, French media reported.
- Gall revived her career in the 1970s with Michel Berger, another influential French songwriter whom she later married and with whom she had two children. In addition to a string of chart successes into the 1980s, she also took a turn on stage in the hit French-Canadian musical Starmania.

Lagaan actor Shrivallabh Vyas passes away

- Lagaan actor Shrivallabh Vyas passed away in January, 2018 morning in Jaipur.
- Shrivallabh Vyas had appeared in over 60 Hindi films, with occasional stints in regional cinema, television and theatre. He had to take a break from acting in 2008 after he collapsed in his hotel room in Gujarat.

John Young, who set records in space with NASA, passes away at 87

- Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died, NASA said in January, 2018. Young was 87.
- The space agency said Young died in January, 2018 night at home in Houston following complications from pneumonia.
- NASA called Young one of its pioneers — the only agency astronaut to go into space as part of the Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs, and the first to fly into space six times. He was the ninth man to walk on the Moon.

Atomic scientist professor Baldev Raj passes away

- Atomic scientist Prof Baldev Raj, 70, passed away in Pune early in January, 2018 while attending a conference in Pune. Having held several key posts, Raj was serving as the direction, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, since 2014.
- His death was sudden and no immediate confirmation about the cause was available, even as it was clear that he was healthy and fit to travel to attend the conference.

Comedian and Actor Jerry Van Dyke of 'Coach' Dies at 86

- Comedian and Coach actor Jerry Van Dyke has died at the age of 86.
- The actor died in his Arkansas ranch Friday, the New York Times reported. Jerry Van Dyke's wife Shirley Ann Jones told the Times that his health had been deteriorating since he was in a traffic accident back in 2015.

Old Monk creator Kapil Mohan passes away

- Brigadier Kapil Mohan, the man who created Old Monk, an iconic brand of dark rum that managed to reach the hearts (and livers) of many, passed away on January 6, 2018.
- The 88-year-old was an entrepreneur who served as chairman and managing director of Mohan Meakin. Launched in 1954, Old Monk for many is not just a drink but an emotion.

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